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8 September 1975

Talking Points
on
PRD Report on Intelligence Alert Memoranda

1. You will recall that about a year ago we decided here at USIB that improvements were needed for alerting senior US policymakers to potential problems that might soon confront them.
2. We agreed on the idea of the "Alert Memorandum" form last September, and in January a set of procedures were approved by USIB.
3. Earlier this summer Mr. Colby asked the IC Staff to review the Alert Memorandum process as it has operated during its first year. He wanted to know how well it has served its intended purpose and if there were any ways we might improve it.
4. While this study is analogous to a post mortem, it focuses on the process and product more in terms of purpose than accuracy of foresight. In our view, the Alert Memorandum was designed to highlight a potential problem, and not necessarily a highly likely one.
5. Because the study was to be a report to the DCI and to USIB, we did not go directly to USIB Principals to solicit their views except in cases where that was the best avenue to obtain a reading on the views of the senior policymaker.
6. You now have had an opportunity to review the findings, and we are interested in knowing your reactions. Our recommendations do not call for sweeping changes. A principal finding concerns what we see as inadequate community involvement, and we suggest ways to help overcome this. There are also a few practices that have become almost standard which we would include in the USIB approved document "Procedures for Alert Memoranda."
7. If you agree to these changes, the IC Staff will redraft that document and submit it for your approval in October.

8 September 1975

NOTE FOR: General Wilson

SUBJECT: Talking Points for USIB on
the Alert Memoranda Study

I attach a set of talking points for
your use in the USIB discussion this week
of our Alert Memoranda study. They are
brief because the study pretty much speaks
for itself.



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